



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 November 2008

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Forty-seventh session

4-13 February 2009

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

and the twenty-fourth special session of the

General Assembly: priority theme: social integration

Statement submitted by Child Welfare League of America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Union of Psychological Science, Salvation Army, World Council for Psychotherapy and World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.5/2009/1.



Statement

As NGOs globally involved with families, we applaud the 47th meeting of the Commission for Social Development for setting its theme "Promoting Social Integration", with special attention to issues of poverty eradication as well as full employment and decent work for all. In addition, it is admirable that the Commission is promoting gender equality and fostering social integration for youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples.

Capacity building, economic development, and social integration require funding and technical support from member states and donors. The solidarity within and among families in a community can facilitate social integration and result in the establishment and continuity necessary for social and economic development.

We recommend the following:

The Commission on Social Development should support and strengthen human capital by allocating funding to organizations that promote social inclusion and integration. Special attention should also be given to promoting the role of the family regarding: gender equality, including those members with special mental and physical needs. Empowerment to address development issues should also be given to indigenous people, youth and the elderly, as well as to migrant workers and their families. During periods of armed conflict and post conflict, the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed social sectors, including health, education, and social service institutions is essential to support the long term process of social healing and social integration. Member states, NGOs, the private sector and other stake holders should actively support, promote, and protect the right to employment, food security, housing, and health care.

A heart sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart, to symbolize life and love in a home where one finds warmth, caring security, togetherness, tolerance, and acceptance – that is the symbolism conveyed by the emblem of the International Year of the Family 1994. The open design is meant to indicate continuity with a hint of uncertainty. The brushstroke, with its open line roof, completes an abstract symbol representing the complexity of the family, viewed as the building block of society.

Participatory Approaches. Families should play an instrumental role in decision-making regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs that affect them. The participation of families, as well as the social integration of all groups can contribute to a sense of community and program sustainability.

Economic Development and Education. It is imperative that member states provide funding and technical support for the economic development and economic education of families and help them learn about the best practices of well managed economic programs. New technologies and media such as television and radio should be used to foster knowledge sharing within and between families. In order to promote the sustainability of approaches aimed at economic development, it is necessary to provide access to markets for both men and women as well as marginalized groups. Specifically, governments should enhance their investment in research-based best practices, such as: cash transfer

programs, UNIFEM's micro-credit financing, and incentives in the form of education grants. Such programs have measurably improved gender equality and the economic self-sufficiency of families and can break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Work Place Environment. It is crucial that opportunities for employment as well as training are provided for both men and women as well as to socially marginalized groups including individuals with disabilities. Member states should allocate funds and enforce regulations that promote safe working environments where workers are assured healthy working conditions, equity, and justice.

Note: The statement is submitted on behalf of the NGO Committee on the Family. The NGO Committee on the Family/New York is committed to addressing issues and policies that impact the advancement of families within the context of the United Nations system.